

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A beverage making apparatus including a fluid compartment, a beverage compartment, beverage processing means intermediate said fluid compartment and said beverage compartment, heating means and a built-in user controllable heating power control means having means for selecting one of a plurality of preset discrete heating power levels, said heating means being integral with said fluid compartment and adapted for heating fluid inside said fluid compartment so that steam generated to generate steam in said fluid compartment will so as to force fluid to move from said fluid compartment through said beverage processing means to said beverage compartment, wherein the heating power of said heating means being is variable by said user-controllable heating power control means to that the flavour of beverages made by said apparatus can be varied by a user by varying control the rate of steam production in said fluid compartment through varying the heating power output of said heating means by operation of said user-controllable heating power control means, whereby the transit time of a fluid transiting from said fluid compartment through said beverage processing means is controllable.

2. (Previously Presented) A beverage making apparatus according to claim 1 and including a base on which said fluid compartment is supported, said

electrical heating means being a variable power output electrical heating means, wherein the rate of steam production in said fluid compartment is controllable by selecting one of said plurality of discrete heating power levels for varying the heating power output of said heating means.

3. (Previously Presented) A beverage making apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said fluid compartment is heated by said heating means in said base to generate steam whereby fluid is moved from said fluid compartment to said beverage compartment, and wherein said user-controllable heating power control means further comprises means for gradually adjusting the heating power output of said heating means.

4. (Previously Presented) A beverage making apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said beverage making apparatus includes a control panel on said base, and wherein said heating power control means and a power level indication means are located on said control panel.

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an overflow means connected to an exit end of said beverage processing means, wherein said heating means includes electrical heating elements disposed underneath said fluid compartment, the heating power output and the consequential rate of steam generation being variable by said heating power control means, said control means and said heating means being disposed on a housing which is

detachably connectable with either said fluid compartment or said beverage compartment.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said fluid compartment includes a built-in control panel and said beverage compartment is detachably connected to said fluid compartment so that, when in use, said beverage processing means is sandwiched between said fluid compartment and said beverage compartment, the plurality of discrete power levels correspond to different power output levels of said heating means, and wherein a higher power output level produces a beverage of a weaker flavor while a lower power output level produces a beverage of a stronger flavor.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the junctions between said beverage processing means and said fluid compartment are substantially air-tight.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said beverage processing means includes an overflow means through which fluid from said fluid compartment enters said beverage compartment.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said overflow means includes a fluid discharge outlet which is elevated above the bottom portion of said beverage compartment.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 and including a container having a top portion, a bottom portion, and a peripheral wall interconnecting said top and bottom portions, said beverage processing means being a modular sub-assembly which is slidably movable along said peripheral wall, said beverage processing means including sealing means for partitioning said container into said fluid compartment and said beverage compartment, said beverage compartment being proximal to said top portion of said container.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said apparatus further includes means for restricting movements of said beverage processing means within said container.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said modular beverage processing means includes a hollow compartment intermediate of said top and bottom portions of said container for receiving beverage making substances, said modular beverage processing means further including partitioning means for separating said container into said fluid compartment and said beverage compartment, said partitioning means including a fluid blocking member extending between said hollow compartment and said peripheral wall of said container, said beverage compartment being defined between said fluid blocking member and said top portion of said container, said fluid compartment being defined between said blocking member and said bottom portion of said container.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a sealing member is disposed between the outer end of said blocking member and the inside of said peripheral wall of said container.

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said sealing member comprises an O-ring.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said beverage processing means is restrained within said container by a lid which covers the top portion of said container.

16-22. (Canceled)

23. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said heating power control means includes means for selecting one of a plurality of discrete heating power levels.

24. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said heating means is located in a heating compartment, and said fluid compartment is mounted on said heating compartment.

25. (New) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said heating power control means is located on the exterior of said heating compartment.

26. (New) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said fluid compartment is disposed within a fluid vessel, and said fluid vessel is fastened to said heating compartment.